

districts of Karnataka, Ficus baccata and Rhododendron in Himalaya's are threatened due to unsustainable extraction. Dry deciduous forests of Madhya Pradesh are very rich in species like Emblica officinalis, Buchanania lanzan and Chlorophytum spp. According to a study 1-2% of these species are being annually destroyed on account of irresponsible extraction. Due to unsustainable extract of these commercially very important NTFP species there is an estimated loss of about 50% of germ plasma. Due to lack of appreciation for their ecological role in forest ecosystem and economic value there is continued neglect for responsible extraction of these resources. The bamboo resources are declining due to lack of investments for revival of gregariously flowered bamboo areas. Bamboo resources are receding in different parts of India. Similarly, a number of other NTFPs are also depleting due to unsustainable extraction.

The state of Madhya Pradesh is one of the richest NTFP state in the country. The data on collection of Terminalia Chebula, Sal seed (seed of Shorea robusta, Kullu gum (Sterculia urens gum) and other rasins show that the collection is declining every year. The reason is mostly on account of loss of trees and plants yielding these products. In the state of Tripura Agar and Mucuna seeds have been extensively extracted depleting the resources. There are only a few example as to how the NTFP resources are declining from forests. There are some efforts as to how the NTFP resources are declining from forests. There are some efforts to grow and domesticate some of these plants but they still account for less than 10% of the total requirements. The question therefore is, can development and conservation be reconciled?

Evolving Socio-Political System and Future of Forests and NTFPs.

At present India is witnessing coalition Governments in states as well as at the central level. There is an emergence of strong regional/local political outfits formed on the basis of local issues. The regional imbalances have disappointed the voters and therefore, they aspire for quick social economic developments through their support to local political parties. The local issues are landlessness, poverty and underdevelopment. The political agenda of the local parties therefore, is to address these issues. In the process these regional political outfits are compelled to take up issues of distribution of land, water, forests and other natural resources. In this process the nationalistic emphasis on conservation and sustainable management of natural resources is subordinated to the ever increasing demand of locals for these resources. There is an example in the state of Madhya Pradesh where the village grazing land was distributed among the landless people leaving the brunt of livestock grazing to common access resource like forests. There are pressures on integrity of